

FROM EUROPE IN A TAXICAB

THE BRILLIANT ARRIVAL OF
THE MAYOR OF SECOND AVE.His Own Assurance to Jake That He Is
Here and His Pride in the Administra-
tion of His Son—Also Why He Played
Skat When the Kaiser Went Motoring.

Because of the shouting thousands who surrounded the Hon. Simon Steingut, Mayor of Second Avenue, to shake his hand when he arrived at his real estate office at 71 Second avenue from Europe in a taxicab the night before last, next to nothing was said in the public prints on Friday about Mayor Steingut's sociological studies abroad or of the deductions he made after delving into European politics, manners, gastronomy and other details. The Hon. Simon Steingut, Mayor of Second Avenue, is the peer of President Diaz of Mexico in continuity of public service, and like other great latter day Executives he is a law unto himself.

At the time that he announced to his people through a mimeograph statement prepared by Secretary Frieda O'Neil of his office force that he thought of going to Europe the Republican organization of the Tenth district (who happily has since moved with his wife and two sons—both Democrats, by the way—to the southern edge of the Twenty-fifth) fought the proposition with virulently viciousness that came from the heart of a politician. The Hon. Simon Steingut laughed. Coroner Harburger, at first a bit worried, felt the pulse of the voters and soon felt a relief so marked that he, the Coroner, would have laughed too were it not for the office he holds. And so Mayor Steingut sailed away—the first Mayor of Second Avenue that ever has stepped with both feet on foreign parts while in office.

When Mayor Steingut was interviewed about the present condition of the Continent of Europe in his Second Avenue office yesterday the interviewer (with memories of the simultaneous visits to Marienbad of Mayor Steingut and Kaiser Wilhelm) whether his Honor's foreign trip had any political significance. Mayor Steingut, who is also a notary public, hesitated for perhaps just a shade over several minutes before replying.

"I had supposed that I was to be asked only impersonal questions about my trip," he said at last wearily. "Let me put it this way," his Honor went on after further thought. "I did not at any time meet the Kaiser directly. I shall admit that at one time a friend of mine in Marienbad said something about arranging an interview some afternoon, but on the day my friend started off to arrange this he learned that the Kaiser that day had gone motoring. So we spent the afternoon playing skat instead."

Perhaps because of the Mayor's reserve, the crust of which had still not yet been already broken at this juncture up to yet, his Honor used, in the paragraph quoted above, the pronoun "I" four times, "mine" once and "my" twice. It is a remarkable characteristic of the man's innate and impersonal modesty that he is rarely known to use the pronoun in the first person when speaking of himself. Usually he is content to say, merely, "Mr. Steingut," or, what is even more impersonal, "The Mayor was received with a brass band and ten open carriages by Mr. Steingut's brother, who is a doctor on the pier at Hamburg when Mr. Steingut," etc.

While Mayor Steingut rambled on amiably yesterday about political and sociological phases of the proletariat and aristocracy of historic Alsace, the castle Almania that now is a mighty empire, fair Gaul whose three parts have merged beneath the lily's shade to form a fairer France—where the three parts of these older lands, touching lightly here and there upon some historic episode or other to explain the better the cause of a present condition, take Dreyfus called up many times on the telephone and the Hon. Humpty Hanover, Mayor of Avenue C, called in person to greet Mayor Steingut. Greetings and salutations were exchanged.

The many interruptions during the interview must have impressed the fact upon the Second Avenue executive that he knew that he is a busy man. No reflection is meant here upon the administration of Mr. Irving Steingut, his Honor's son, who is studying law at New York University and who, acting Mayor of Second Avenue during the Executive's absence.

"The little Mayor is glad," said the Mayor proudly yesterday as he gazed upon his son, "about the way that Mayor Steingut conducted the avenue while Mr. Steingut was in Europe. He was even more liberal with the people than I was here for favoring them," continued Mr. Steingut. "Sometimes maybe he was too liberal. Who? Again Jake Dreyfus? Make a connection on the phone."

"Hello Jake! What? Sure I am. Sure. Mr. Steingut had a great trip. Jake. Sure—the Mayor was back even yesterday. Mr. Steingut never thought he'd see Second Avenue again. Well, there was a storm, Jake. Come up to-night at 7:30. Sure—Mr. Steingut landed yesterday. Mr. Steingut will be in his office here at 7:30. Jake. You can't? Well, come up between 7 and 8 then. Mr. Steingut had a great trip. You can't come up between 7 and 8? Can't you come at 7:30, Jake? Come some day soon. Good-by, Jake."

One by one the interruptions of a like official nature broke in upon the interview in this way. Still Mayor Steingut found a chance to answer many questions and his politico-social comparisons between things European and American ideas were always enlightening and always amusing.

Mayor Steingut visited Paris thoroughly, and while there dropped his fountain pen while crossing a bridge and broke the pen. He also bought a pair of shoes while in Paris—got a look at them—and visited many theatres. From Hamburg, Mayor Steingut says, he went to Germany and then returned to Hamburg. Although Mayor Steingut did not say so in so many words, it was obvious that he returned to Hamburg the second time after visiting Hamburg the second time, because later he spoke of being in Berlin—after he had gone to Hamburg the first time, then to Germany and back to Hamburg.

"In Berlin much attention was paid to Mr. Steingut when they saw the Mayor of Second Avenue's card with also 'Notary Public—Deutscher Notar' printed on it in honor letters," began his Honor when asked about business and political conditions in Berlin. "The Mayor of Berlin," he said, "is a very interesting man. Here, unfortunately, Mayor Steingut again was interrupted. The Hon. Eddie Spangenberg, Mayor of Canal street; the Hon. Pat Conroy, Mayor of Broadway; the Hon. Sam Wolf, Mayor of Yorkville; Mayor Diamond Dan O'Rourke of Park row, and Mayor Sam Levy of Harlem all came in accompanied by a number of politicians not so well known, and these officials, after greeting Mayor Steingut warmly, ranged themselves on the south side of the office near Mayor Humpty Hanover, the Chief Executive of Avenue C. The meeting was not a star chamber assemblage in any way, but all the officials spoke freely, although the meeting was quite free to the Mayor. The Mayor, taking up his reminiscences and observations made during his journey through many lands, Mayor Steingut spoke of Vienna. He went to Vienna, he said, to see the Merry Widow, and it was in Vienna that he purchased the suit of clothes that he wore yesterday and which already have received some attention in the metropolitan press. In Vienna, too, Mayor Steingut met with a misfortune that although not of a serious nature caused him a great deal of inconvenience.

This was on the morning of Mayor

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Steingut's first day in Vienna. For weeks, he said, his watch—which always had kept perfect time in New York—had seemed to be out of order. Visiting a watchmaker in Vienna Mayor Steingut learned that the trouble was not with the watch, but with the method of measuring time in the older countries. When it is 4 o'clock in New York, the watchmaker explained, it isn't in Vienna; and as the Mayor was turning the hands of his watch in conformity with the old time measurement of the Viennese he broke his mainspring.

Mayor Steingut's son looks upon the visit of his father to Vienna as somewhat of a misfortune. The design of the goods was described yesterday, but no mention was made of the black satin panels. Where the sleeves are sewed to the shoulder they form small, winglike ridges and the sleeves themselves tend more to the leg of mutton—narrow at the wrist and approaching stouter as the shoulder is approached—than one sees turned out in American shops of the same fashionable standing. Aside from these details and the shortness of the skirt of the coat the entire costume might have been created in Fifth Avenue.

Mayor Steingut met an old New Yorker in Carlsbad, Abe Hummel, who formerly practised at the law in this city, but gave up his practice some time ago and later journeyed eastward by easy stages. Mr. Hummel was well and of good cheer. Asked if he thought of resuming his practice in New York Attorney Hummel said no, he did not.

"Mr. Hummel was taking the waters," Mr. Steingut said yesterday, "and the telephone rang. It was Mr. Dreyfus also again who had called up to say that he could be at Mayor Steingut's office at 7:30 o'clock on almost any night except Tuesday. Mr. Steingut then told Mr. Dreyfus that Mr. Steingut had much to tell him, inasmuch as Mr. Steingut had just returned from Europe and would be at his office at 7:30 o'clock on Tuesday. When the conclusion Mayor Steingut said that he had his hair cut once in Hamburg and another time in Germany, but that he always shaves himself."

MUSEUM TO HELP THE SCHOOLS.

Classrooms and Other Aids to Study Supplied at the Metropolitan.

In the extension of the definite educational work of the Metropolitan Museum of Art there has now appeared a further effort to benefit teachers and students in the schools. Not only may arrangements be made for the services of a member of the museum staff to show the collections to teachers and their pupils in a classroom, but also may be obtained, equipped with stereoscopic and blackboard, tables and chairs.

Books and photographs from the library may be brought to the classroom and explanations made before going into the galleries, and by permission objects from the galleries may be transferred to the room for better study than is afforded in the cases.

The division of visual instruction of the New York State Department of Education has deposited in the museum a large collection of objects owned by the State, and these also may be used in the classroom under the regulations of the State Department. The museum will also permit teachers and lecturers with proper credentials to borrow for outside use slides owned by the museum. These loans are gratis when the lectures are free, but a nominal charge is made if they are for use for private purposes.

The museum Bulletin that was published yesterday calls attention to two leaflets lately issued by the museum containing detailed information of this line of work.

JOYS OF THE PARETICS.

Among Other Symptoms They Bar Out Politics and Two Hour Speeches.

The first annual dinner of the Paretic Club of Westchester County, the members of which mostly live in New York city, was held last evening at Mouquin's downtown restaurant. Edouard Glardon of New Rochelle, a member of the French Astronomical Society and a public accountant, was in the main responsible for the dinner, as he is for the club.

Dr. Herbert Cady presided. From the soup, served in pint cups and imbibed through straws, to the liqueurs, which appeared in the bottoms of large beer glasses, everything was more or less topsy-turvy. Coroner Aronson, Prof. Osirup and Gunther of Stevens Institute, Commodore Henry P. Gillie, John W. Terry, Frederick Glasup, Albert H. Church, J. H. Freymann, Harold Forbes, John Scott, John A. Manning and Dr. J. M. Davis were among those present. The dinner marched into the dining room in lockstep formation between lines of waiters uniformed as keepers in a State insane asylum, and short and snappy speeches on all subjects short of politics, which is forbidden by the by-laws, interlarded with the service from time to time.

Letters of regret from Gus Thomas, W. Travers Jerome, Mark Train and many other honorary members were filed. The menu included everything possible, from Mock terrapin, a la Bismarck, to Hallowell's sherry, to "Muldoo's Keesleyqueurs," and was evidently prepared without the slightest reference to what was actually served. As one of the speakers put it:

"This dinner reminds me of one time when I was at a small country place and had to stay over for dinner at a so-called hotel. I was sitting on the stoop smoking when the dinner bell rang. Immediately a dog which was lying in front of the place set up a howl, whereupon a native of the place turned to the dog and said: 'What are you howling for, you fool; you don't have to eat it.'"

Probably never have shorter speeches been served to any dinner crowd. The chairman, First Paretic Cady, congratulated himself at the start that he was going to have nothing to do; but when speaker after speaker was introduced and set down after saying a dozen words or so he found his job no sinecure. So many subjects, including politics, are tabooed by the club's charter that the remarks were confined to personalities and short stories. Louis Mouquin made the hit of the evening when he said he hoped that the crop of paretics would be much larger next year, for business reasons. About one-half of the total membership of the club, 107, were present, and it was too late for the last train to New Rochelle when the Paretic Club finally concluded its first public session.

OBITUARY.

Augustus Warren, head bookkeeper of the China and Japan Trading Company of 21 Burling slip, died on Friday of typhoid at the home of his brother Frank in East Orange, N. Y., on May 21, 1908, the son of Gratus Warren and Mathilda (Oederdonk) Warren. He was 47 years of age and had been with them ever since.

Lewis H. Douglas, son of the late Frederick Douglas, died yesterday of paralysis. He was the first negro composer to enter the employ of the Government Printing Office and he subsequently became editor of the New National Era, a newspaper devoted to the colored race. He was a veteran of the civil war.

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DR. ALEXANDER WILDER DEAD.

Physician, Journalist, Author and an
Anti-Tweed Abolitionist.

Alexander Wilder, physician, journalist, author, politician and scholar, died yesterday at his home, 94 South Eleventh street, Newark, at the age of 68. Dr. Wilder had been afflicted with bronchial consumption for forty years.

Dr. Wilder was born in Verona, N. Y., on May 14, 1840, and was graduated from Syracuse Medical College in 1860. He also took two other degrees from the New York Homoeopathic Medical College and the United States Medical College. From the practice of medicine he went into newspaper work and after serving on the Syracuse Star and Syracuse Journal he was employed by the New York Evening Post, with which he was connected from 1888 to 1897, a part of the time as Albany correspondent.

In 1872 he was elected to the Board of Aldermen in opposition to the Tweed ring. He was secretary of the National Eclectic Medical Association from 1876 to 1880, in which capacity he edited nine-

teen volumes of their "Transactions." He was also for a time secretary of the State Eclectic Medical Association and a member of several other similar associations, besides being president of the School of Philosophy of New York and editor at one time or another of quite a few magazines.

Among his books are many bearing on ethics, philosophy and the mysteries of the future life. They include "Secret of Immortality Revealed," "Our Darwinian Cousins," "Eleusinian and Bacchic Mysteries," "Serpent and Siva Worship," "Entheism," "The Soul," "Higher Sources of Knowledge," "Ethics and Philosophy of the Zoroastrians," "Creation and Evolution" and "The Imagination." There are many others, bearing on the Platonic philosophy. Among his books dealing with medicine are "Vaccination a Failure," "Ganglionic Nervous System" and "History of Medicine."

He translated the Bible into six languages within the last few years and at the time of his death was working on a translation of Plato's works for private distribution. Dr. Wilder married when a young man, but separated from his wife a few years afterward and never saw her again.

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